State itself. My Government will actively go ahead with the project for setting up of processing plants with foreign collaboration this year itself. In the meanwhile my Government will continue with support measures already in force and press the Government of India for grant of incentives for export.

19. Steps will be taken to protect the spice cultivation of the State from the harmful effects of fall in their prices.

20. My Government propose to lunch a Vegetable Cultivation Promotion Programme to meet the internal requirements of the State and also for the purpose of export.

21. In the course of the year it is proposed to introduce an extensive irrigation development programme for exploiting the ground water resources of the State. It is programmed to start two lakhs irrigation units both for paddy and for garden lands giving priority to areas where the existing facilities are scarce or non-existent. For realising this objective the financial resources available with the Primary Co-operative Societies, long-term lending institutions, Land Mortgage Banks and Commercial Banks will be mobilised. My Government will also give top priority to the energisation of all pumpsets for agricultural purpose, especially in the World Bank assisted projects having irrigation components. An appropriate Authority will also be created for the exploitation of the ground water resources of the State.

22 The significance of animal husbandry and dairying is well recognised as a means for generating additional employmant and income, especially for small and marginal farmers. My Government's strategy in this regard will be comprehensive and imaginative. It will involve the popularisation of scientific practices, upgradation of the quality of animals, combating of animal diseases, strengthening of veterinary services and research, optimisation of yield and minimisation of losses. The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will draw special benefit from the animal husbandry programmes.

23. In the field of dairy development, Operation Flood II Programme and the Integrated Silvipasture Development-cum-Livestock Production Programme under the Western Ghats Development Programme will be implemented vigorously. My Government propose to go ahead with a comprehensive dairy development programme for the northern districts of the State on the model of the Operation Flood II Programme with the technical and financial assistance of the Swiss Government.

24. In the Co-operative sector, action is afoot to step up all forms of agricultural credit, marketing facilities, distribution of consumer goods, supply of fertilisers, construction of godowns and assistance for housing. Special emphasis is laid on the Co-operative coverage and credit requirements of Harijans and Girijans, the strengthening of their Co-operative institutions and ensuring the representation of Harijans and Girijans in the running of Co-operative institu ions. My Government will extend all necessary support to the Kerala State Harijan and Girijan Development

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